



Nebraska 4-H & PEDV

Guidelines & Recommendations

What is PEDV?

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) was first identified in the United States in May of 2013 and has since spread through most states and affected millions of pigs. Clinical signs include severe diarrhea and vomiting, leading to mortality rates near 100% in pre-weaned pigs, while the effect on older pigs is typically less severe.

How does this affect my 4-H project?

The biggest concern to 4-H exhibitors in Nebraska right now is limiting disease transmission. The PED virus is extremely virulent and capable of surviving in the environment for extended periods of time. Infected animals can shed the virus in feces for up to 3 weeks. Transmission of the PED virus from pig-to-pig or farm-to-farm can occur via contamination of pigs, boots, clothing, tires, vehicles, trailers, shovels, sorting panels, and many other items that come into contact with infected pigs. Fully understanding the risks associated with PEDV and implementing proper biosecurity measures will help ensure that 4-H project animals remain healthy and help limit additional disease spread.

What is Nebraska 4-H doing?

Unfortunately, commingling of pigs at tagging events, weigh-ins, prospect shows, and county and state fairs could contribute to further spreading of PEDV. **Therefore, it is the decision of Nebraska 4-H to prohibit county-level tagging's or weigh-ins on swine in 2014.** This does not limit county fairs from holding 4-H Market Hog shows. Tagging and verification of ownership will be conducted on an individual basis as outlined below. We encourage show coordinators, extension personnel, and all 4-H swine project members to educate themselves. We have provided links to important documents from the National Pork Board regarding [disease facts](#) and [biosecurity techniques](#).



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



How will we identify 4-H Market Hogs?

Ownership affidavits and ear notches/tags will still be required on **all** pigs destined for exhibition at the county level, State Fair, or Ak-Sar-Ben. If tags are used, exhibitors should pick up tags at the local 4-H office and the tags should be put in by the exhibitor, parent, or guardian. Ownership affidavits should be filled out by the exhibitor and/or family and submitted to the 4-H office or via the online system with all normal deadlines applying. In cases where new or inexperienced participants in the swine project are not comfortable tagging, they are encouraged to seek assistance from an Extension Educator, Assistant, or a 4-H Volunteer; however, it is the responsibility of the 4-H family to ensure that proper biosecurity measures are in place.

What can 4-H'ers do to improve biosecurity?

It is important that every 4-H member involved in a swine project understand that they can be a part of the solution. The most effective way to manage the spread of PEDV is by keeping your project isolated from other pigs and limiting your own exposure to other pigs. The elimination of early tagging's and weigh-ins is a step in that direction. However, we understand that this approach may not work for everyone. If an Educator, Assistant, or Volunteer is asked to come to a premise they should always wear disposable plastic boots and leave them at the premise when departing. Upon leaving the premise, extension personnel or 4-H volunteers should not travel to another swine farm or 4-H swine project for at least 24 hours and should undergo a complete change of clothing, shower, and disinfection of all equipment. If taggers need to be exchanged and used between families, please be sure to properly disinfect. Products such as Clorox[®], Virkon S[®], Tek-Trol[®], or 1 Stroke Environ[®] have been shown to properly disinfect, but cannot be considered the only means of biosecurity.

It is important to note that Nebraska 4-H is not limiting the travel of pigs to exhibitions and shows throughout the summer and fall. The choice to travel is a personal decision made by each family after careful consideration of the facts. How this disease could potentially affect your projects and fellow 4-H'ers' projects is not something to be taken lightly. Only take healthy pigs to shows and exhibitions. If you have suspicions that your pigs may have contracted PEDV, please isolate them at home and consult your veterinarian immediately. Tests are available through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to verify the presence of PEDV. Under these circumstances, anything that you wear and/or use around those infected animals poses the risk of transferring the disease and proper biosecurity steps need to be taken to prevent further spread of the disease.